

# WHITE EXTREMIST ORGANIZATIONS

## Part II National States Rights Party



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**Part II**

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**May, 1970**

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### Preface

This is the second of a series of monographs pertaining to white extremist organizations in the United States. This study examines the National States Rights Party, which is a kindred spirit of the Klan organizations discussed in the first monograph.

## SUMMARY

The National States Rights Party (NSRP), formed in July, 1958, in Knoxville, Tennessee, of segregationist and anti-Semitic elements, has a current membership of about 150 active members located in approximately a dozen states. Its national headquarters is in Savannah, Georgia.

The NSRP is based on racism and bigotry, with blacks and Jews as its main hate targets. Blacks are regarded as inferior and polluting the white race, while Jews are equated with communists, subverting the Government and aiding the blacks. Law enforcement bodies, especially the FBI, are viewed with great hostility by the NSRP.

Members are urged to acquire firearms and become proficient in their use in order to protect themselves against the blacks. Consonant with a policy of violence advocated by the NSRP, its leaders have helped to trigger outbreaks of violence, most recently in September, 1968, in Berea, Kentucky, where one white and one black were slain during an armed confrontation between NSRP members and local blacks.

The dominant figures in the NSRP during its entire existence have been Edward Reed Fields, its National Director, and Jesse Benjamin Stoner, its National Chairman. Both have lengthy backgrounds of hatemongering.

NSRP public activities include rallies, demonstrations, counterdemonstrations, and political campaigns. It publishes scurrilously antiblack, anti-Jewish, and anti-Administration literature, chiefly in its monthly mouthpiece, "The Thunderbolt."

Close relations exist between the NSRP and other white extremist groups, particularly Klan organizations. A number of individuals hold membership in both the NSRP and Klan groups.

## Antiblack, Anti-Jewish Ideology

The National States Rights Party (NSRP) was created in July, 1958, in Knoxville, Tennessee, from remnants of such segregationist and/or anti-Semitic organizations as the United White Party, the Christian Anti-Jewish Party, the Columbians, several Klan groups, and representatives of the States Rights Party. At the time the NSRP was organized, one of its founders, Jesse Stoner, observed: "The name of the National States Rights Party will sound so mild that a man belonging to it will not worry about his job."

The tenets and purpose of the NSRP are strikingly similar to those of Klan organizations. Like the Klan, the NSRP is based on racism and bigotry and promotes the concept of "white supremacy," with blacks and Jews as its main hate targets.

According to the NSRP, the two major political parties have betrayed the white Christians in the United States; hence, the NSRP is the last hope for saving "our white Christian civilization." To the NSRP, which regards blacks as an inferior race intent on mongrelizing the white race, the solution to the racial problem in this country is the repatriation of all blacks to Africa. If resettlement does not work, the NSRP holds total segregation of the races is the next best answer. It cites the apartheid practiced in South Africa as a perfect system for preserving the dominance of the white race.

The NSRP is as viciously anti-Jewish as it is antiblack. Equating Jews with communists, it maintains that an "international Communist-Jewish conspiracy" is undermining the Government and is behind the black liberation movement in this country. The NSRP would send all Jews to Israel.

The intense bias of the NSRP extends beyond the blacks and Jews. Regional prejudices are manifested by the NSRP in its vilification of Mexican-Americans in the Southwest and Asians on the west coast.

The NSRP insists that the Federal Government stop infringing on states' rights through statutes, administrative decrees, and judicial decisions.

#### Enmity toward Law Enforcement

Local and state law enforcement agencies have been the target of unceasing vituperation on the part of the NSRP. Its heaviest fire, however, has been directed against J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI.

The NSRP charges that Director Hoover was placed and is retained in his post by a "Communist-Jewish conspiracy." NSRP officials refer to the FBI as the "Federal Bureau of Integration" and an "intimidation agency" for the Department of Justice. FBI Agents are described as "slimy race mixers," "nigger baby sitters," "New York Jews," and "gestapo for the Jews."

The two top NSRP leaders, Edward Fields and Jesse Stoner, are both known to carry firearms on occasion and have vowed repeatedly that they will shoot any FBI Agent they see surveilling them.

#### Membership Composed of Bigots

The NSRP has not grown much during its 12 years, for it now has an estimated active membership of 150, an increase of about 50 members in the past five years. In addition, it has approximately 2,500 mail-type members who joined the organization by mail for an annual membership fee of ten dollars, which also includes a year's subscription to "The Thunderbolt," the NSRP monthly publication.

Members of the NSRP include professed Christians of both sexes, ranging in age from the late teens to 70 years or more. The membership consists of fanatical segregationists, rabid anti-Semites, and members and former members of Klan organizations.



### Active in 13 States

The NSRP has chapters or is active in the following states: Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and California.

National headquarters of the NSRP is located at 8-10 Montgomery Crossroads, Savannah, Georgia, but consideration is being given to moving the office to Atlanta, Georgia.

National officers and a National Executive Committee are elected at national conventions held at irregular intervals. The last national convention took place in Jacksonville, Florida, on June 7-8, 1969.

### Leaders Are Professional Hatemongers

The dominant figures and moving forces during the NSRP's entire existence have been Edward Reed Fields, its Director and Editor of "The Thunderbolt," and Jesse Benjamin Stoner, its National Chairman.

#### Edward Reed Fields

Fields was born September 30, 1932, in Chicago, Illinois, but his family moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where he graduated from a Catholic academy. He became anti-Semitic in his early teens, and while at school tried to enlist students in a pro-Nazi organization known as the Black Front.

Later, he was associated with the Columbians, an anti-Jewish, antiblack group whose symbol was a lightning bolt. In 1950-1951, he was active in the American Anti-Communist Society in Atlanta, and in 1952 joined with Jesse Stoner in forming the Christian Anti-Jewish Party, of which he became Executive Secretary.

Fields attended the Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa, from which he received a degree of Doctor of Chiropractic in 1957. Although he has followed his profession on occasion, in recent years he has devoted full time to his NSRP activities.

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As a top NSRP official, Fields travels widely. During a four months' period in 1969, for instance, he spoke at NSRP meetings and rallies all over the country, including Jacksonville, Florida; Dayton, Ohio; Peoria, Illinois; Chicago; San Francisco; and Los Angeles. He also appeared on two television programs in Chicago.

He gave a typical harangue at a meeting of the Dayton chapter in June, 1969, in which he spoke of the inferiority of blacks to whites and the fact that "scientific proof" is available showing the smallness of the Negroid brain, thus indicating that blacks are incapable of being productive members of society. According to Fields, history has demonstrated that the blacks have never initiated anything important or been responsible for any substantial contribution to society, and the only thing they are good for is building mud huts and squeezing oil out of peanuts. It was Fields' contention that the blacks are trying to pollute the white race. Jews were also referred to by Fields in an equally deprecating manner.

Fields has a proclivity for writing caustic letters to newspapers, magazines, and public officials. A representative letter appeared in "Playboy" magazine for March, 1969. In this letter, Fields asserted that "Negroes are inherently inferior people"; that "we will never have law and order in America until all Negroes are deported back to Africa and completely removed from this nation that was founded and built by the great white race"; that "Negroes prefer white women because black women are ugly and stupid"; that "the white race is the superior race, and white supremacy is God's law"; that "Negroes have always been wild savages and always will be"; and that "when the National States Rights Party comes to power, we will solve the race problems and have a white Christian America."



Edward Reed Fields



Jesse Benjamin Stoner

Jesse Benjamin Stoner

Stoner was born April 13, 1924, in Walker County, Georgia. [REDACTED]

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At the age of 18, Stoner joined the Associated Klans of America in Tennessee and was soon a Klan organizer. He remained in the Klan intermittently for nearly ten years. In 1946, he founded the Stoner Anti-Jewish Party and six years later joined forces with Edward Fields to establish the Christian Anti-Jewish Party.

A number of bombings of synagogues and schools took place throughout the South during 1958, and Stoner was one of the prime suspects. He reportedly did not commit these crimes but only planned them.

On graduating from the Atlanta Law School in 1952, Stoner was admitted to the Georgia bar. As a practicing attorney and as the NSRP legal adviser, he has defended Klansmen and other white extremists who have been arrested. Stoner is one of three attorneys who are currently endeavoring to gain a new trial for James Earl Ray, convicted of murdering Martin Luther King on April 4, 1968. Stoner represented Ray in a civil action in the Fall of 1968.

In his capacity as an organizer and speaker for the NSRP, Stoner travels extensively delivering white supremacy, antiblack, and anti-Jewish tirades at NSRP meetings and public rallies in various parts of the country.



Charles Conley Lynch



### Charles Conley Lynch

Known as the NSRP's "itinerant preacher," "Connie" Lynch spends most of his time filling speaking engagements for the NSRP all over the country. He was born November 15, 1912, in Clarksville, Texas, but drifted to southern California, where he worked as a lemon picker and a plasterer.

In the late 1930's, he became a minister and thereafter was associated with several tiny fundamentalist sects located in California. During World War II, he served with the United States Army for two years.

Lynch has a long history of involvement in various white supremacy and anti-Semitic groups and activities. He once headed an anti-integration group called the Christian Defense League and was also a member of the United Florida Ku Klux Klan. In February, 1963, he was arrested in San Bernardino, California, after he and others, yelling "Kill the Jews," antagonized patrons at a local drive-in and precipitated a brawl.

In his speaking appearances, Lynch wears a vest made of a Confederate flag. A spellbinder of the fundamentalist-revivalist school of the southern backwoods, he is a consummate rabble-rouser, noted for his highly inflammatory speeches. His oratory is liberally spiked with lurid references to rape, murder, and cannibalism at the hands of the blacks. In a fire-and-brimstone speech in Jacksonville, Florida, on one occasion, he exhorted the white people to unite and stand against their enemies--the blacks, the Jews, and the communists. "The Jew is the son of Satan," cried Lynch; "the white man is the son of God."

From October, 1968, to November, 1969, Lynch was incarcerated in the Maryland State Penitentiary, where he served a sentence as a result of his conviction for inciting a riot in Baltimore in July, 1966.

### Varied Public Activities

The NSRP engages in a variety of public activities, such as rallies, demonstrations, picketings, and political campaigns. In imitation of Klan rallies, outdoor rallies

staged by the NSRP are usually conducted in open fields situated on the outskirts of towns and cities. They are held primarily for propaganda and recruiting purposes, with the audience being subjected to the familiar NSRP diatribes against the blacks, Jews, communists, and public officials.

On occasion, the NSRP has run candidates for political office. In 1969, for instance, the Reverend Jack Crites, of Akron, Ohio, was the NSRP candidate for Governor of Ohio. His program included a number of planks, among which were the following: make the United States a "white Christian" nation; eliminate public welfare except for the sick and elderly; outlaw civil rights laws, open housing, integrated schools, and school bussing; make interracial marriage or association a felony; bar the Communist Party, USA, and its front organizations; forbid the fluoridation of water; allow only white Christians (Anglo-Saxon, Nordic, Germanic, or Celtic) to be elected or appointed to public office; get the United States out of the United Nations and get the United Nations out of the United States; declare all decisions of the Supreme Court null and void unless reviewed and approved by two thirds of the Senate, the House, and all state legislatures; remove all gun control laws; and confine the FBI to investigating communism, espionage, and treason.

#### Publishes Scurrilous Literature

The principal organ of the NSRP is its 12-page monthly tabloid, "The Thunderbolt," which is edited by Edward Fields. Approximately 30,000 copies of each issue are printed. Fields also prepares a monthly "Personal News Letter" for distribution to all NSRP members. Besides these publications, the NSRP produces books, pamphlets, leaflets, handbills, and other types of printed material.

All NSRP printed propaganda is scurrilously antiblack, anti-Jewish, anti-law enforcement, and anti-Administration. In its unremitting promotion of the doctrine that the white race is the master race and in its unmitigated hatred of the Jews, NSRP propaganda has a definite neo-Nazi overtone. NSRP propaganda is clearly calculated to arouse the bitter prejudices of racists and bigots.

### Sources of Funds

NSRP funds are obtained from such sources as public collections; the sale of literature and such items as Confederate flags and license plates, thunderbolt flags, lapel pins, decals, and armbands; individual contributions; and membership dues.

### Close Ties with Other White Extremist Groups

There is a good deal of overlapping of membership among the NSRP and Klan groups. In addition, there has always been considerable cooperation and collaboration between the NSRP and various Klan organizations, such as an exchange of literature and speakers. Connie Lynch has spoken a number of times at Klan meetings and rallies. Several years ago, the wife of a Klansman was the secretary of the NSRP chapter in Meridian, Mississippi. Edward Fields was the houseguest of a Klansman in Jackson, Mississippi, in February, 1970.

As indicated earlier, Jesse Stoner has served as an attorney for a number of arrested Klansmen and other white extremists. In October, 1969, Stoner attempted to visit Robert DePugh, National Coordinator of an extremist guerrilla warfare group called the Minutemen, at the Federal Penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas, where DePugh was then incarcerated. Authorities would not permit him to visit DePugh, as Stoner was not his attorney of record.

Fields had no use for George Lincoln Rockwell, who headed the American Nazi Party until he was murdered in August, 1967. Before Rockwell's death, Fields characterized him as a "scoundrel" and "publicity seeker."

NSRP representatives have met with right extremists in Europe. Jerrold Pope, NSRP organizer in Kentucky, in June, 1969, contacted right extremist leaders in England, including those of the rightist National Front. In late December, 1969, and early January, 1970, Jesse Stoner visited Germany, Austria, Portugal, and England, purportedly on behalf of James Earl Ray, the slayer of Martin Luther King, but also to see right extremists in Germany and England. Among these were officials of the National Front in England.



### Security Measures

The NSRP has endeavored to establish security units in its chapters. As in the Klan, these units are responsible for performing such duties as setting up signs, lighting, and speaking equipment; directing traffic at outdoor rallies; screening visitors at rallies to keep out troublemakers; and observing coverage of meetings by law enforcement agencies. Some security guards wear a uniform consisting of black trousers, white shirt, Sam Brown belt, lapel pins, and armbands.

One chapter contemplated adopting a system of coded cards for members to carry. These cards were to contain the member's name, identifying data, and instructions on how to contact other members.

### Acquisition of Firearms

NSRP publications have regularly admonished readers to procure guns. Moreover, members at meetings are constantly encouraged to obtain weapons and become proficient in their use so that they will be ready when the "niggers" start trouble.

This propensity for acquiring firearms by leaders and members alike is illustrated by a cache of firearms and survival equipment which was found in the ground on an unoccupied farm in Owsley County, Kentucky, in February, 1969, by two hunters. The farm was owned by Dallas Hale, Chairman of the Dayton, Ohio, chapter of the NSRP. As a preservative measure, the firearms and equipment had been carefully buried in polyethylene and the weapons heavily greased. Pipes had been laid in the hole to insure adequate drainage.

The firearms uncovered included the following: three .30 caliber rifles, one .410-gauge shotgun, five carbine cartridge clips, seven boxes of .30 caliber ammunition, one box of shotgun shells, two boxes of .45 caliber ammunition, five cartons of .22 caliber ammunition, one ammunition box, and one gun-cleaning pack.

### Incites Acts of Violence

A policy of violence has been consistently and emphatically espoused by the NSRP. NSRP spokesmen have made numerous incendiary statements at meetings and public rallies which have served to fan the flames of violence. For instance, Jesse Stoner intensified tensions in Bogalusa, Louisiana, by exhorting whites to arm themselves and take to the streets during civil rights demonstrations which wracked that city in July, 1965.

Connie Lynch was instrumental in fomenting a riot which broke out in Baltimore, Maryland, in July, 1966, as the culmination of a series of rallies organized by him. At the second rally, on July 27, Lynch told his audience that he would lead them into a "clear-cut race riot." At the final rally, on July 28, attended by nearly 2,000 persons, hundreds of white youths incited by Lynch and other NSRP speakers, roamed through an east Baltimore black district, overturned garbage cans, ran across lawns, shouted racial epithets, and beat up a black youth.

As a consequence of their activities, Lynch and two other NSRP officials were tried and convicted in a Maryland state court on charges of inciting to riot and conspiracy to riot and were sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

Lynch was also a key figure in a shoot-out that erupted in Berea, Kentucky, on September 1, 1968, following several rallies in which Lynch was the principal speaker. At a rally held on the evening of August 31, abusive, antiblack remarks uttered by Lynch over a loudspeaker were heard by blacks living nearby. Although there were no incidents that night, the seeds of violence had been sown.

Unbridled antiblack, hate-type oratory was resumed at a rally at the same site on the following afternoon. At the conclusion of the rally, a group of six or eight blacks, all armed, approached whites who were leaving the rally and were fired upon by the whites. The fire was promptly returned by the blacks. In the exchange of shots, two individuals were killed: a 30-year-old white NSRP leader and a 37-year-old black resident of Berea. Police immediately moved in, arrested 14 persons, and confiscated seven shotguns, three rifles, and four pistols.

Six whites and six blacks were subsequently tried and convicted for the shoot-out. The whites received short suspended jail sentences or were fined, while the blacks were placed on probation.

Danger Potential

-- The NSRP--like the Klan--gears all its activities and propaganda to appeal to inveterate racists and bigots, condemns all law enforcement agencies, advocates violence to maintain its avowed aim of segregation, and urges its members to obtain arms and ammunition. Small in numbers though it may be, the NSRP nonetheless constitutes a threat to this Nation's internal security.